

ten pylons. Unfortunately, the percentage of pylons occupied by buffalo weaver nests in those regions is not given, but it was most probably much lower than in northern Namibia, and lower by an order of magnitude than in southern Namibia. It appears that the number of buffalo weaver nests on pylons in Namibia is positively correlated with rainfall, while the reverse is true of raptors (Brown & Lawson 1989).

In most bird species, the main factors influencing nest-site preference are predation, food resources and nest-site availability. Since the two latter factors are not limiting in Kalahari Woodland, it appears that only predation plays a role. Many snakes and viverids (Carnivora: Viveridae) occur in this area, and these may prey heavily on the large and conspicuous buffalo weaver nests in trees. Placing nests high above the ground on metal constructions may prevent predator access. Nests on pylons probably do not persist longer than those in trees. While travelling the same road in April 2013, I observed that many pylons were devoid of Red-billed Buffalo Weaver nests. Rainfall in northern Namibia was very high in 2011, but was low in 2013. This suggests that Red-billed Buffalo Weavers prefer pylons for nesting in very wet seasons.

## Acknowledgement

Dieter Oschadleus kindly reviewed an earlier draft of this note.

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Received 24 November 2012; revision accepted 7 November 2013.

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# First documented record of Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* for Libya

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## Première mention documentée du Gobemouche à demi-collier *Ficedula semitorquata* pour la Libye.

Un mâle adulte du Gobemouche à demi-collier *Ficedula semitorquata* a été photographié le 31 mars 2010 à Sebket Hasila, sur la côte libyenne à environ 90 km à l'est de Sirte. Deux observations précédentes de mâles ont été signalées à deux sites différents entre Ajdabiya et Benghazi, les 29 mars et 1 avril 2006. L'observation présentée ici est toutefois la première donnée documentée pour le pays de ce migrateur paléarctique.

**D**uring a field trip to the north-central coastal wetlands of Libya on 31 March 2010, a black-and-white *Ficedula* flycatcher was seen to land on a low sandstone hill, near the beach north of Sebket Hasila (31°24'45"N 17°26'65"E), c.90 km east of Sirte. When it moved between shrubs <10 m from us, we were able to photograph it

and notice the incomplete white collar, small white forehead patch and white outer tail feathers (Figs. 1–2). These features suggested the bird was an adult male Semi-collared Flycatcher *F. semitorquata* in breeding plumage. Adult male Collared Flycatcher *F. albicollis* in breeding plumage has an all-white collar, a large white



Figures 1–2. Semi-collared Flycatcher / Gobemouche à demi-collier *Ficedula semitorquata*, Sebket Hasila, Libya, 31 March 2010 (Jaber Yahia)

forehead patch and a generally all-black tail, whilst Pied Flycatcher *F. hypoleuca* lacks a white collar (Mild 1993, Svensson *et al.* 1999). Although some male Pied Flycatchers of the North African race *speculigera* (Atlas Flycatcher) possess a half-collar, they can be distinguished by their larger forehead patch and all-black tail (Svensson *et al.* 1999). The identification was subsequently confirmed from the photographs. The bird was observed between 12.30 and 13.15 hrs, during which period the sky was clear, temperature *c.*30°C and wind speed 15 km/h. Other species observed were two adult Black Wheatears *Oenanthe leucura*, a Northern Wheatear *O. oenanthe* and two Crested Larks *Galerida cristata*.

Both Collared and Pied Flycatchers are passage migrants through Libya, but this is the first documented record of Semi-collared Flycatcher in the country (Toschi 1969, Bundy 1976, Clement & Taylor 2006). There are, however, two previous sight records of single males on 29 March and 1 April 2006 at two different sites between Ajdabiya and Benghazi (P. Isenmann & J. Hering *in litt.* 2013). The species breeds from south-east Europe and Turkey to the Caucasus and northern Iran, and winters in east-central Africa from southern Sudan to western Kenya and western Tanzania (Clement & Taylor 2006). Considered Near Threatened, the species is estimated to be undergoing a moderately rapid population decline, mainly because of habitat loss due to forestry practices on its breeding grounds (BirdLife International 2013). Return migration is early and in North Africa it is a regular spring passage visitor in Egypt between mid March and mid May (Goodman & Meininger 1989). Further west,

there is only a single definite record, in Tunisia (Isenmann *et al.* 2005), with none from Algeria and those from Morocco are considered uncertain (Isenmann & Moali 2000, Thévenot *et al.* 2003).

### Acknowledgements

We thank Nicola Baccetti for critically examining the photographs and confirming the bird's identity, and Joe Sultana, Pierre Defos du Rau, Ron Demey, Paul Isenmann and Jens Hering for their valuable comments on a draft of this note.

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Received 16 April 2013; revision accepted 30 September 2013.

## First record of Bamenda *Apalis* *Apalis bamendae* for Nigeria

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**Première mention de l'*Apalis* du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae* pour le Nigeria.** Le 12 février 2013, un *Apalis* du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae* a été capturé et photographié dans la Forêt classée de Ngel Nyaki (07°05'N 11°04'E), à l'est du Nigeria. Il s'agit de la première mention pour le pays de cette espèce, qui était considérée comme endémique au Cameroun.

On 12 February 2013 at 11.10 hrs, we mist-netted a small, mainly pale grey warbler with a rufous 'face' at Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve (07°05'N 11°04'E), Taraba State, Nigeria, which we tentatively identified as Bamenda *Apalis* *Apalis bamendae* (Figs. 1–3). We forwarded photographs to Dr Shiwua Manu and Ron Demey, both of whom confirmed the identification.

This is the first record for Nigeria of Bamenda *Apalis*, which was considered endemic to Cameroon, where it is a not uncommon to locally common resident in the Bamenda highlands and the Adamawa Plateau (Borrow & Demey 2001). Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve is located at

the eastern edge of the Mambilla Plateau and is 45 km<sup>2</sup> in extent, of which c.7.5 km<sup>2</sup> comprises montane / submontane forest at altitudes of 1,400–1,600 m (Chapman & Chapman 2001). The forest is surrounded by overgrazed grassland and savannah (Dowsett-Lemaire 1989). It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and harbours several species restricted to the Cameroon Mountains Endemic Bird Area, including Western Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus tephrolaemus*, Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*, Black-capped Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus herberti*, Cameroon Sunbird *Cyanomitra oritis*, Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus* and Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani* (Ezealor 2001).



**Figures 1–3.** Bamenda *Apalis* / *Apalis* du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae*, Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve, Nigeria, 12 February 2013 (Charles A. Nsor)